DC

11

POISON IVY™

WILSON
TAKARA
PRIANTO

Bloody BAECATION

13+
TEEN

DAWN OF DC

6 issues
APRIL

SUPERBOY
THE MAN OF TOMORROW

OUTGROWN YOUR SUPER-FAMILY? TIME TO GET A LITTLE SPACE.

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Written by
KENNY PORTER

Art by
JAHNOY LINDSAY

FORGING THE FUTURE
ONE HERO AT A TIME

All living beings want one thing.

To survive.

A parasitic fungus wants it as ferociously as a lion or an eagle or a human being.

So you can't blame them. The little poisonous things.

I FEEL SORT OF A SECOND HIGH COMING ON.

THAT'S YOUR LIVER.

MY WHAT?

THE CHEMICALS IN THE LAMIA THAT MAKE YOU HALLUCINATE GO THROUGH YOUR LIVER TWICE.

They will do **whatever** they have to do to **adapt.** To **live.**

Just like **us.**

I HAVEN'T FELT LIKE THIS IN *YEARS.*

I SPENT *SO LONG* BEING *UNHAPPY,* WISHING I HAD MY *PRE-CHILDBIRTH BODY* BACK, WISHING I'D DONE THINGS *DIFFERENTLY...*

...NOW I SEE IT WAS A *WASTE OF TIME.*

BEING *PERFECT* DOESN'T MAKE YOU HAPPY *EITHER.*

TRUST ME. I SPEND *ALL DAY* THINKING ABOUT *CALORIES.*

I JUST *WISH* I COULD *FIGURE OUT* WHY EVERYTHING MAKES ME *PANIC.*

EVEN THE THINGS THAT ARE *SUPPOSED* TO MAKE ME *HAPPY.*

Oh, honey. BEING YOUNG IS *HARD.* LIFE DOESN'T COME WITH *OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS.*

IT'LL BE *OKAY.*

WHY CAN'T IT BE LIKE THIS *ALL* THE TIME?

WHY DOES IT TAKE *MUSHROOMS* FOR US TO BE *NICE* TO EACH OTHER?

DO YOU WANT THE *POETIC* ANSWER?

OR THE *SCIENTIFIC* ANSWER?

I DON'T KNOW.

BOTH.

THE *SCIENTIFIC* ANSWER IS THAT WE NEED A LOT MORE *DOPAMINE* THAN OUR BRAIN *USUALLY SUPPLIES* TO BE THIS *COOPERATIVE.*

THE *POETIC* ANSWER...

...IS THAT WE'RE SO *BOUND UP* IN OUR OWN *NONSENSE* THAT WE NEED *PERMISSION* TO BE THIS *NICE.* AND *CHEMICALS* GIVE US *PERMISSION.*

SO WE *NEED* THE *MUSHROOMS* EITHER WAY.

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST *STAY* LIKE THIS.

F-forever...

JANET?

JANET?!

COME ON!

OPEN YOUR *EYES!*

STAND UP!

Hnng!

...Janet?

The little poisonous things.

It's **always** them.

...WHAT THE HELL.

WHY ARE YOU ALL ***STARING*** AT ME LIKE YOU'RE WAITING FOR ***INSTRUCTIONS?***

Fighting so **hard** to **survive...**

...that they become the very **biggest,** most **important** things of all.

DC COMICS PRESENTS:

POISON IVY

CHAPTER ELEVEN.

Writer G. WILLOW WILSON

Artist MARCIO TAKARA

Colors ARIF PRIANTO

Letters HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

Cover JESSICA FONG

Variant covers AMY REEDER AND SEB McKINNON

1:25 Variant cover DAVID NAKAYAMA

Assistant editor JESSICA BERBEY

Editor ARIANNA TURTURRO

Group editor BEN ABERNATHY

I think of what **Gwen** said. The **GLØP** lady. Leader of this **wellness cult.**

The **mycelial network.** It's kind of the **neural interface** of a **fungal colony.**

Woodrue **warned** me that the purpose of the **lamia** was **surveillance,** not **poison.** Now it makes **sense.**

The network allows the colony to **communicate** in ways we **still** don't **fully understand.**

This strain of **lamia** may have **gone rogue** and **escaped** into the **wild...**

...but **apparently,** I am **still connected** to it.

The **center.** The **mother.**

With **all** my little children arrayed around me.

In the hills not far away is a small **oil refinery.**

It's isolated.

Remote.

Difficult for it to call in **reinforcements.**

I'M *STARVING.*

PIZZA AND *WINGS* AFTER THIS RUN? MY *TREAT.*

YOU'RE ON.

I SAW A *CHICKEN SHACK* BACK THERE AT MILE MARKER TWENTY. WE COULD JUST--

HUH?!

SKEEE

SORRY, FRIENDS.
THIS IS THE *END* OF THE *LINE.*
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU ALL *DOING* OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE *NIGHT?*
EXACTLY WHAT IT *LOOKS* LIKE.
BLOCKADING THIS *OIL REFINERY.*
YOU *CLIMATE FREAKS* REALLY THINK THAT BY *STANDING* OUT HERE YOU'RE *DOING* SOMETHING.
WE ARE. WE'RE *SLOWING IT DOWN.*
WHAT?
SLOWING IT *DOWN.*
I *USED* TO THINK THE SOLUTION WAS TO JUST *KILL EVERYONE.*
NOW I JUST MAKE IT *VERY EXPENSIVE* TO DO BUSINESS THE *OLD WAY.*
BUT I *MIGHT* CHANGE MY *MIND.*
WHAT IF WE JUST *RUN YOU DOWN?*
DO IT.
They won't.

There are more of **us** than there are of **them.**

It's too **messy.** They'll **chicken out.**

RAAAAA

Human nature will **kick in.**

They'll slam on the **brakes.**

They'll think, What the hell was I doing?

...At least, that's what happens **most** of the time.

Not tonight, though.

Tonight I'm the one thinking, What the hell have I done?

DON'T LOOK.

WHOOSH

SKREEE

...Where the heck did everybody go?

The little poisonous things.

Somehow, against **all odds**, they **always** find a way.

Like a **tree** growing up through a **crack** in the **sidewalk.**

Life. Ferocious and **eternal.**

FFSH

Ugh!

KOFF KAFF KRFF

Please be okay... *please...*

Hnnng!

Wh-WHAT... WHAT JUST *HAPPENED?*

I DON'T KNOW FOR *SURE,* BUT--

--I THINK I JUST DISCOVERED HOW TO *TRAVEL* THROUGH THE *MYCELIAL NETWORK.*

THE *WHAT?*

THE NETWORK OF *FUNGAL THREADS* THAT CONNECT *MUSHROOM COLONIES* TO EACH OTHER.

THE WAY THAT MUSHROOMS *COMMUNICATE* AND *SPREAD.*

AND SINCE *YOU* ARE ALL *INFECTED* WITH THE *LAMIA TOO,* I WAS ABLE TO TAKE YOU *WITH* ME.

BUT THAT'S *REALLY COOL.*

ISN'T THAT REALLY COOL? I feel like that's *really cool.*

I GUESS SO.

I ALMOST GOT *ALL* OF THESE PEOPLE *KILLED.*

She's still under the **influence** of the **lamia.** She thinks this is **fun.**

But all I can think is... I **feel** things I'm not used to **feeling**... worry, **compassion**...

...and it's **unpleasant.**

HOW DID WE *GET* THERE, ANYWAY?

I DON'T REMEMBER *ANYTHING* AFTER WE... after you and I... *uh...*

I *TOOK* YOU THERE. *ALL* OF YOU.

APPARENTLY, I CAN *CONTROL* PEOPLE *INFECTED* WITH *LAMIA.*

SO I *MARCHED* YOU ALL TO THE *OIL REFINERY.* TO *BLOCKADE* IT.

YOU *DRAGGED* US THERE *AGAINST OUR WILL?*

SO IT WOULD *SEEM.*

YOU PUT OUR LIVES IN DANGER FOR YOUR *OWN AGENDA?*

LIKE I *SAID...* YES.

?!

WHAT IS *WRONG* WITH YOU?!

YOU *KNOW* WHAT I AM, JANET.

THIS IS *NOT* WHAT YOU *ARE.*

THIS IS WHAT YOU *WERE.*

THIS IS WHAT I WILL *ALWAYS* BE, JANET-FROM-HR.

NO MATTER HOW HARD I *TRY* TO BE SOMETHING *ELSE.*

Mmm--

I don't *believe* you.

You *saved* us when you could have *sacrificed* us.

JANET, WE *CAN'T* KEEP *DOING* THIS--

BE A MONSTER. *EMBRACE* THE MONSTER.

BUT BE A MONSTER WHO GETS *BETWEEN* INNOCENT PEOPLE AND THE *EVEN BIGGER* MONSTERS.

COMING HERE WAS *YOUR* IDEA. WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT ME TO *DO?*

WHAT YOU DID TO *ME* AT THE *CHEMICAL PLANT* IN *GOTHAM.*

YOU *KILLED OFF* THE *LAMIA* INSIDE ME. YOU LET ME GO.*

*back in the *GOTHAM CITY VILLAINS ANNIVERSARY GIANT* #1. --Arianna

I DIDN'T *INFECT* THESE PEOPLE!

THEY CONTRACTED *LAMIA* THROUGH THAT WEIRD *GREEN JUICE* YOUR *RICH GURU* WAS SELLING!

CAN'T YOU STILL *CONTROL* IT? THE *FUNGUS STUFF* STILL *LISTENS* TO YOU... RIGHT?

YOU.

I HEARD *EVERY WORD.*

THIS IS *YOUR* FAULT.

HOW WAS *I* SUPPOSED TO KNOW AN AGRIBUSINESS *GOON* WAS GOING TO *COMPROMISE* THE *PURITY* OF OUR WILD, *NATURAL* MUSHROOMS?

THIS IS *ENTRAPMENT.* OR FRAUD. Or *something.*

I'M GOING TO *SUE* YOU INTO THE *GROUND.*

YOU BLAME *ME* FOR THIS?

YOU THINK EVERYTHING **NATURAL** IS **HOLY** AND **PURE.**

BUT **NATURE** SPENDS **EVERY** MOMENT OF **EVERY** DAY TRYING TO **KILL** YOU.

WHO DID YOU **SEND** OUT THERE TO GO **ROOTING** THROUGH THE **DIRT** FOR YOUR **OVERPRICED MUSHROOMS?**

WERE THEY **TRAINED?** WERE THEY IN A **RUSH** TO FILL YOUR **ORDERS?**

SUCH A RUSH THAT SOMETHING **POISONOUS** SLIPPED **PAST** THEM?

I SHOULD MAKE YOU DRINK **EVERY** LAST **DROP** OF THAT **SLIME** YOU WERE SERVING.

A **LITTLE** LAMIA AND YOU SEE COLORS. A LITTLE **MORE** AND YOU WILL **BEG** ME FOR **DEATH.**

WAIT! STOP!

REMEMBER THE STUFF YOU *SAID* IN *SEATTLE?*

I THOUGHT YOU WERE *ONLY* GOING TO MURDER THE *REAL* BAD GUYS NOW!

THAT WAS BEFORE I KNEW JUST HOW *DEEP* THE *ROT* WENT IN THIS LITTLE *SUMMER CAMP.*

I d-didn't *mean* it--

Please. Please don't *hurt* me.

I S-STARTED OUT TRYING TO DO SOMETHING *GOOD*. SOMETHING *WONDERFUL*.

I THOUGHT-- A COMPANY THAT *HELPS* PEOPLE *TAKE CARE* OF THEMSELVES.

WE SPEND SO MUCH TIME ON OUR *JOBS*, OUR *FAMILIES*-- OUR *BODIES* START TO *BREAK DOWN*.

I WANTED TO GIVE PEOPLE SOMETHING *WHOLESOME*.

I WANTED TO *NOURISH* THEM.

BUT IT JUST GOT BIGGER AND *BIGGER*... I STARTED *CUTTING CORNERS*... BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS EXACTLY THE KIND OF PERSON I CLAIMED TO *HATE*...

...and now, all that *bad karma* is coming *back* to *get* me...

IT'S NOT *TOO LATE*, RIGHT?

I CAN STILL MAKE EVERYTHING *OKAY*?

I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S--

KH--

KH--

GWEN?

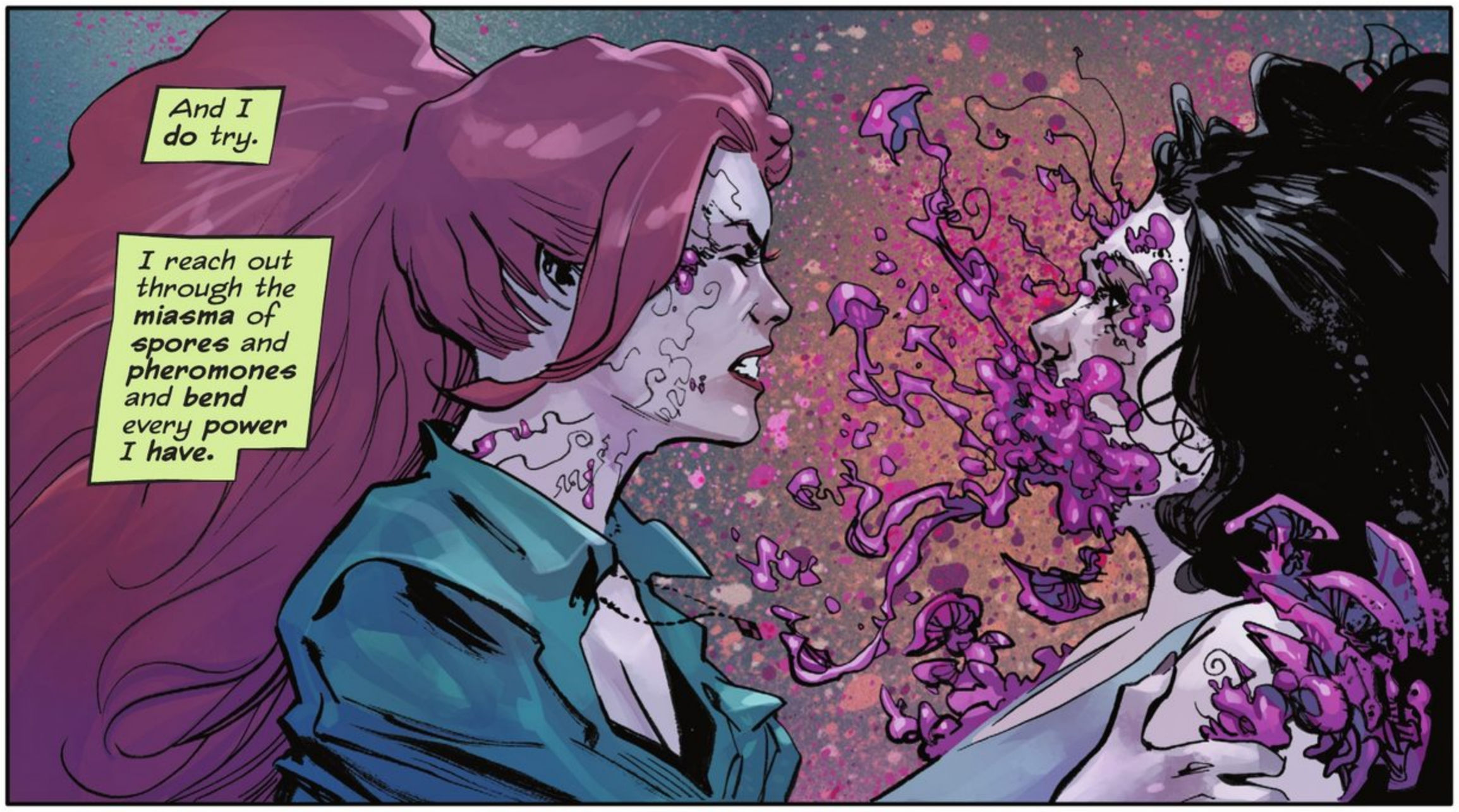
KH-KH-

HEY! ARE YOU *OKAY*? WHAT'S GOING ON?

KHH

What the-- WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HER?
NOTHING! IT'S NOT ME!

Do something!
I'M TRYING!


And I do try.
I reach out through the miasma of spores and pheromones and bend every power I have.

But I can't stop it.
The wild lamia.
AHHRGH!

It has a will of its own.

NEXT: TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES.

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Art by
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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

THE SANDMAN UNIVERSE

NIGHTMARE COUNTRY
The GLASS HOUSE

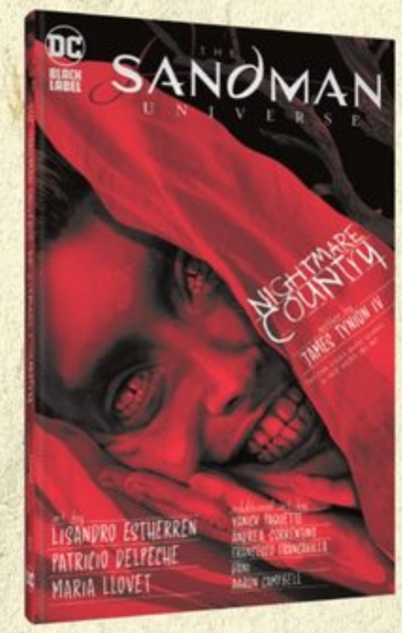
Last year's *The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country* was, ahem, a dream come true for fans as horror superstar James Tynion IV teamed with acclaimed artist Lisandro Estherren and an all-star lineup of guest illustrators to tell the tale of unsettlingly memorable *The Sandman* antagonist the Corinthian let loose on the waking world.

"The whole first series built up this big mystery—there's this monster walking the world that acts like a nightmare but is not a nightmare," Tynion said. "The Corinthian is deeply fascinated by what this monster is and what it could mean."

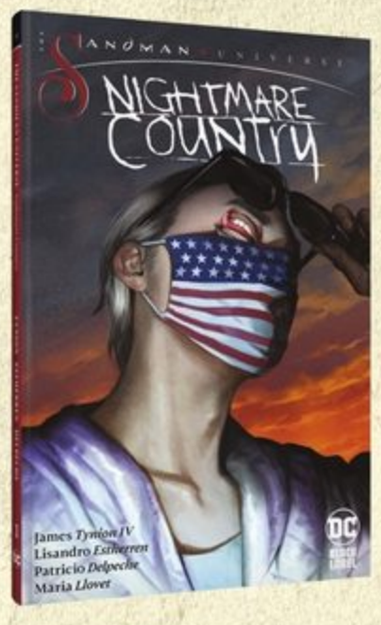
This spring, Tynion and Estherren return for *The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country - The Glass House*, a new six-issue series and the latest installment of the *Sandman Universe* saga. In this follow-up volume, the Corinthian's pursuit of the Smiling Man takes him to Silicon Valley.

"What exists at the beating heart of America? We talk a lot about the American dream, and that aspirational quality," Tynion said. "But there is also this raw desire that lives at the heart of the American consciousness. There are few places that embody that more than Silicon Valley."

Plus, the full first volume of *The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country* returns in two collected editions—in paperback and a collector's edition hardcover—released simultaneously. The hardcover edition is bundled with a mini-print of Jenny Frison's take on Death of the Endless, which first appeared as a *Nightmare Country* variant cover.



The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country



The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country (Direct Market Edition)

Don't miss *The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country - The Glass House* #1 and *The Sandman Universe: Nightmare Country* collected editions, all on sale in April!

DC COMICS MARIE JAVINS Editor-in-Chief, DC Comics ANNE DePIES Senior VP – General Manager JIM LEE Publisher & Chief Creative Officer DON FALLETTI VP – Manufacturing Operations & Workflow Management LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Talent Services ALISON GILL Senior VP – Manufacturing & Operations JEFFREY KAUFMAN VP – Editorial Strategy & Programming NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP – Manufacturing Administration & Design NANCY SPEARS VP – Revenue

POISON IVY 11. June, 2023. Published monthly by DC Comics, 4000 Warner Blvd., Bldg. 700, 2nd Floor, Burbank, CA 91522. GST # is R125921072.

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